



CLEVELAND PARK  
SMART GROWTH

**2022 ANC Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name: Janell Marie Pagats SMD: 3C03**

**1) What are the main issues you hope to address as an ANC Commissioner?**

*I hope to continue to work to improve safety, increase housing stock, and revitalize the commercial corridors. All of these contribute to each other to allow for a more vibrant and inclusive neighborhood community. This includes continuing to support Concept C that improves the safety of Connecticut Ave and allows more people to use public space to suit their needs and abilities. I will also encourage maximizing density of building housing at or near transit and bringing more public transport options to the area including reinstating the L1 bus route and extending the Circulator route to at least the National Zoo. Allowing for more people to live here, and get around outside of a private vehicle by providing safe passage and ability to walk and roll in the neighborhoods, we will be able to provide attractive retail opportunities to fill the vacant spaces on the commercial strips.*

**2) The Cleveland Park and Woodley Park commercial areas on Connecticut Ave are now allowed to be zoned for greater residential density. What will be your priorities and approach to any rezoning requests for the area that come before the ANC?**

*I will always support maximizing the allowable density and my approach will be to encourage and advocate for this to happen even if it is not in the original plan.*

**3) How will you incorporate racial equity in your approach as an ANC Commissioner?**

*Incorporating racial equity is essential especially in this neighborhood that has a robust history of redlining. I do not think it is just racial equity that needs incorporation to approach the role of an ANC Commissioner as there exists issues with equality, diversity, and inclusion too. Some of the biggest issues that come before us involve a very loud minority of people blocking change - from housing to bike lanes to a single family homeowner putting a pool in their backyard. I give credit for turning up consistently and unrelentlessly. I do hear from many people who do not participate in the process because they are terrified of being bullied in public meetings, listservs, etc. What I can and have done is try my best to make participating and commenting to the ANC a somewhat more welcoming space. Equality, diversity, and inclusion matters. What I do, and will continue to do, is consider the voices and needs of those not present and commenting at meetings or on the public record. The oath one takes as an ANC is that I "will consider each matter before me from the viewpoint of the best interest of the District of Columbia" not just the people in the room or the homeowners within 200 feet of a project.*

**4) ANC 3C includes the Woodley Park Historic District, most of the Cleveland Park Historic District and several historic landmarks. How will you approach Historic Preservation applications in your SMD (if applicable) and in ANC 3C generally?**

*My least favorite part of this job is reviewing applications for additions and whatnot in backyards of single family homes. My approach to these types of applications will be to do my best to resolve any issues with them among the neighbors before the public meetings so that we are not subjecting the larger population of the ANC to a glorified HOA meeting during that time. Peoples' time is valuable and I do not think it should be spent in this space watching some of this type of neighbor on neighbor argument play out when it largely only affects a handful of property owners.*

*For the large project applications that involve the Historic Districts and landmarks - of course, there should be opportunity for more robust public discussion. There are many opinions on what is and is not precious or sacred when it comes to change within these spaces. I like to hear what the public thinks on these matters because maybe the change desired is needed to benefit the greater good of present and future people and we shouldn't rely on anything being wrapped in amber to make that happen.*

**5) Are you committed to supporting the Connecticut Ave reconfiguration approach known as Concept C? (Yes or No), and what will be your priorities when it comes to the reconfiguration of Connecticut Ave?**

*Yes, I support Concept C. My priority is getting it done as soon as possible and hopefully in my lifetime. We need to make the big bold moves and edit as needed. This paralysis by analysis is not a solution.*

**6) What else do you want neighbors to know about you and why you are running to represent them?**

*A commissioner colleague answered the question about what makes you the right person to serve in this position and responded with "if not me, then who?". It is not an easy gig if you truly care. I care a lot. I look at the present, past, and future when I make decisions. I have learned a lot and will continue to do so. This is the most taxing, rewarding while unrewarding and thankless position I have ever volunteered for. I have no regrets. I enjoy serving my community. I have been able to meet so many neighbors and made so many friends and learned so much. The girl scout in me just really thrives meeting people where they are and trying to do best to improve upon that.*

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**About Cleveland Park Smart Growth**

CP Smart Growth is a community of over 500 Cleveland Park-area residents who share an interest in promoting and discussing urbanist issues. Our mission is to advance smart growth policies in Cleveland Park to ensure an economically vibrant, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive neighborhood. We do this through education, organizing, and advocacy.

Learn more at [cpsmartgrowth.com](https://cpsmartgrowth.com)